

# How Is It With Europe?

How far is Europe from financial and social bankruptcy?

A summary of facts gathered first hand by Henry P. Davison.



Henry P. Davison

**H**OW far is Europe from financial and social bankruptcy? is a question of vital importance to all the world. Herewith is a concrete summary of facts of great value on this question, gathered at first hand by Henry P. Davison. Concerning these facts and the man who gathered them Rowland Thomas in the New York Sunday World makes this statement:

At this time Mr. H. P. Davison, partner in the firm of J. P. Morgan, seems more thoroughly qualified than any other person in America to express an authoritative opinion on conditions in Europe. He has an extremely keen, clear mind. He is a man of the largest affairs, accustomed by many years of business experience to grasp the essential details of complex situations. And on top of his unusual personal qualifications as a trustworthy observer and reporter, he has just, through his position as head of an international organization, had put in his possession the latest and completest mass of information obtainable anywhere. He is chairman of the board of governors and therefore ex-officio head of the League of Red Cross societies which comprises all the Red Cross societies in the world except those of the central powers, and has just returned from the first conference of this organization, held in Geneva.

At this conference the European situation was the main object of consideration, and to give a basis for discussion and action, experts were brought in from the field all over Europe and their first-hand reports were received and examined. The result was the composite picture of post-war Europe in the winter and spring of 1920 which Mr. Davison holds in his mind.

By fixed rule, Mr. Davison does not give interviews to individual representatives of the press, nor write signed statements for individual papers. He has not broken his rule in this instance. This is not an interview. But when his unique position as a source of information was pressed on his attention, he granted the Sunday World access to his data, and what follows may be taken as a substantially accurate and complete statement of the facts as he sees them. Its significance can therefore hardly be overemphasized.

"The catastrophe," wrote Mr. Balfour, chairman of the Council of the League of Nations, to the Red Cross conference at Geneva, "is of unexampled magnitude," and in the same communication referred to "the horrors with which we are faced," and stated they had reached "appalling proportions."

These are very strong expressions, coming from a personage of such standing. They indicate a recognition of disaster.

Is there any hope of setting matters right? Can Europe "come back"? Or is she bankrupt? The present summary of known facts will be an attempt to indicate an answer to that question.

At the outset it is necessary to clarify the situation by making certain distinctions. Europe stretches over 3,800,000 square miles. Its people number 460,000,000, more than a quarter of the globe's estimated population. Furthermore, at present Europe as a unit is non-existent, if it ever existed. It has been split by the war into various groupings, in which conditions widely differ.

The neutrals, unravaged Spain, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, with over 40,000,000 population, constitute one group. Defeated Germany and Austria form another. Russia is a third. The "Big Four" of the European allies—England, France Italy and Belgium—are another. And the less stabilized countries of the central and eastern regions are a fifth. Between these groups conditions vary greatly, and this must be kept in mind in considering whether Europe is solvent or bankrupt.

About our principal allies in the west there is no question. They are strongly going concerns still, and, despite their own distress, are doing their best to pull their neighbors out of the Slough of Despond. The French peasant is working, and the French artisan, despite a sad need of raw materials, has not lost his habit of industry and thrift. The encouraging fact about France today is that her people are fully alive to the seriousness of her problem and are going forward bravely to solve it.

Italy, too, despite her great shortage of raw material, is looking forward, not backward, led by one of the great men produced by the war, Mr. Nitti. He is a truly wise statesman, and under his leadership Italy can be relied on to do her part by herself and her neighbors. Belgium, as might have been expected, is strongly on the mend, and England is meeting her problems of reconstruction with quiet courage and sturdy common sense. She is doing each day's work, and at the same time rendering all assistance her resources will permit to the countries on the continent.

Belgium and France and Italy and England are asking no charity of the United States. Their peoples are as proud as we are—eager as we are to work out their own national destinies and carry on their own businesses. They seek only the opportunity to regain their economic strength. And these countries have a population of 125,000,000. Combining them with the 40,000,000 neutrals, it appears that about a third of the people of Europe could not be referred to as bankrupt. Some of them are in serious difficulties, but they have plenty of hope left, as well as energy, for the tasks of reconstruction.

This distinction drawn, and it being understood that Germany, because her problems are so peculiar to herself, is left out of the discussion, it is not too much to say that in all the rest of Europe—excepting, possibly, Russia, about which reports are conflicting—civilization has broken down. For something like 200,000,000 people, disease, bereavement and suffering are present in practically every household, while food and

clothing are insufficient to make life tolerable. Particularly in the broad belt lying between the Baltic and the Black seas there is appalling misery. This great area includes the new Baltic states, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine, Austria, Hungary, Roumania, Montenegro, Albania and Serbia, to say nothing of Russia eastward and Armenia to the south. In all that region there is almost complete paralysis of national life and industry.

All that part of Europe has today a tremendous number of idle people. Many of them want to work. But there is a great shortage of raw materials with which to work, and the import-export situation seems all but hopeless. Such has been the output of paper money and so much greater is the need of imports than the possibility of exports under existing conditions that these countries have nothing, either money or goods, with which to purchase from outside what they need to sustain life itself, to say nothing of supplies for the revival of industry. They totter on the brink of utter ruin, from which nothing but a helping hand can save them.

The depreciation in the currencies of some of these countries, as valued in dollars, is unbelievable. According to market quotations of April 10, it ran as follows:

Austria	.....97.53%
Hungary	.....97.48%
Germany	.....92.32%
Greece	.....43.26%
Roumania	.....91.81%
Poland	.....97.98%
Czechoslovakia	.....92.78%

In other words, if the peoples of these countries tried to buy materials and supplies in America at the present market values of their currencies, Austria would have to pay approximately 40 times the normal cost, Germany 13 times, Greece just double, Czechoslovakia 14 times and Poland 50.

These figures are official and are the only index which can briefly give any comprehension of the economic conditions inside these countries. Their currencies are depreciated because they have neither gold nor sufficient production with which to maintain their normal position with the United States or with their immediate neighbors. Until each such country is able to produce sufficient to maintain itself, either from within or by importing in exchange for gold or goods, it cannot hope for normal conditions, if indeed it can hope to survive. There is nothing difficult of comprehension about the situation. Somewhere, somehow, some time, those countries must become possessed of food, clothing, raw materials and the means of transporting them, or they must perish. Economically and politically, they are crippled to a point threatening complete paralysis, while at the same time the people are ravaged by destitution and disease. The inroads of the latter on the war-worn and undernourished population has reached the proportions which Mr. Balfour called "appalling."

Men, women and children are dying by thousands, and over vast once civilized areas there are neither medical appliances nor medical skill sufficient to cope with the sanitary crisis.

In the Ukraine, winter of 1918-19, typhus and influenza affected most of the population. In villages of 2,000 and 3,000 half the people would be ill of typhus at the same time. Many physicians attended a territory 40 miles in diameter. Some who had 20,000 to 30,000 typhus patients could get no medical supplies whatsoever, and could give only oral encouragement to their sick. And this year the condition is even worse. Pauperism is becoming more and more intense. Prices have advanced steadily.

In Austria, according to a report dated February 12, there were in Vienna rations for three weeks. People were apathetic, fatalistic and tired, and there was an epidemic of dancing. One dance was attended by 4,000 people, half of whom had no dinners. Refusing to go home, they danced until exhausted. One hundred thousand school children were underfed and diseased as a result of food shortage, lack of fuel and inadequate hospital facilities. Crime was increasing among the child population, hunger sometimes driving little boys to attempts at murder. The

population of Vienna was literally famished. The general death rate had increased 46 per cent since 1913, and the death rate from tuberculosis 250 per cent. Many children of one year had not surpassed their weight at birth. The middle class, living on salaries, were selling their belongings to buy even the government ration. One meal for one person cost 6 kronen at the municipal kitchens, while the salary of a professor was 77 kronen a month. An overcoat cost three months' salary of a court justice, and a second-hand Renault automobile sold for an amount equal to 17 years' salary of the chancellor.

The following is taken from a communication from Sir William Goode, British director of relief:

"All official and other reports which reach me give no hope of improvement in the situation in Central and Eastern Europe. The misery of the outlook in many parts, particularly in Austria, Poland and Armenia, is worse than ever. . . . The marshallled charity of the world, government and unofficial, will not alone heal the disease from which Europe is suffering. Increased production and the restoration of economic order out of political and economic chaos are the only solutions of the problem that now defies the ingenuity of those who face it."

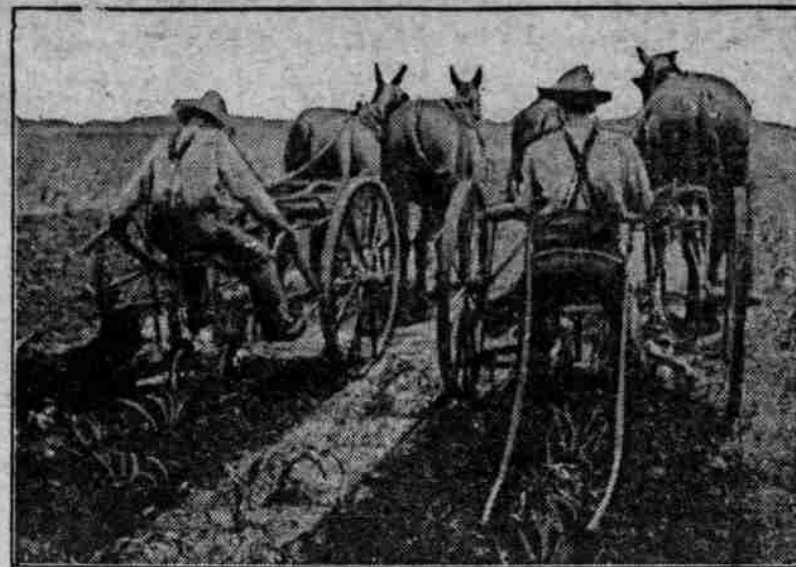
Such is the picture of conditions in the spring of this year of our Lord 1920—according to the information gathered by Mr. Davison during a two months' stay overseas, where he joined in conference with representatives of 27 nations. How is that aid to be rendered? A week ago last night, at a dinner given to him at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, Mr. Davison spoke at length of conditions as he had found them, and indicated what seemed to him the only possible courses of remedial action. To quote from portions of his speech:

"Any voluntary aid, to become effective, can only follow the provision of such essentials as food, clothes, and transportation, which must be given if the peoples are to live and be restored to a condition of self-support, and the need of which is so vast that it cannot be given by voluntary organizations, but must be supplied by governments. Upon assurance from the league of nations that food, clothing and transportation will be supplied by governments, the League of Red Cross societies shall at once formulate plans for the immediate extension of voluntary relief within the affected districts, appealing to the peoples of the world, through the Red Cross organizations, for doctors, nurses and other necessary personnel, medical supplies, diet foodstuffs, and such money as may be required. . . ."

"We are going to find out that we can no more escape the influence of the European situation of today than we were able to escape the war itself. You cannot have one-half of the world starving and the other half eating. We must help put Europe on its feet or we must participate in Europe's misery. . . . We find ourselves the only country possessed of many of the supplies which Europe needs and which cannot be purchased or given in sufficient volume on credit. As a nation we should at once arrange to place within the reach of those peoples that which they need to save them and start them on their way to recovery. . . . The situation has developed so far and so seriously that there is no possibility of its being met in any other way. . . ."

"I have always been an optimistic American, because of my supreme confidence in the ultimate judgment of the American public upon any question submitted to them. I believe that as soon as we realize the truth and effect of such statements as I have made, we will take steps worthy of the traditions of the American people. Therefore the responsibility upon everyone of us is to do whatever may be in our power to the end that the American people may have a clear understanding of what it all means, that they may the sooner declare themselves. . . . Not until the prior and fundamental step is taken of furnishing by government action the necessary elements, food, clothing and transport, will we, the American people, properly have established ourselves among the peoples of the world and be in a position to leave a creditable heritage to those who are to come after."

## BETTER CORN YIELDS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CULTIVATING PROMPTLY WHEN NEEDED



This Arrangement Requires the Labor of Two Men.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Farm labor is scarce this year, and yields are likely to suffer unless available labor is utilized to the best advantage.

Unnecessary or misdirected cultivation is always a serious waste, but it is particularly so when man power is not adequate to crop requirements.

Make all labor count at full value. In cultivating the corn crop, say specialists, use a two-row cultivator if possible. It consumes only half as much man labor as a one-row cultivator and only one-fourth as much as the half-row cultivator or double shovel.

Cultivate when cultivation is needed, but refrain when it is not needed. Cultivation may be a waste of time or actually injurious under certain conditions. Cultivation by a hard-and-fast rule is likely to do more harm than good. Government corn specialists

Evaporation of moisture lowers temperature. A wet, evaporating soil surface is cold. A dry soil surface is warm. A loose soil surface dries quickly and the blanket of loose, dry soil then checks evaporation, drinks in sunshine, and becomes warm.

Watch your soil—its condition should determine when to cultivate. Do not let cracks form. They are holes through which valuable moisture escapes. Do not cultivate when your ground is dry or wet enough to form large clods. Clods tie up plant food so that the corn roots cannot use it.

Watch Soil and Plants.

Do not waste cultivation. Cultivation may be actually injurious when your soil is so dry and hard as to break into large dry clods.

Failure to cultivate promptly when it is needed to prevent the soil from becoming cracked, hard, or weedy will materially lessen the corn yield.

In addition to watching the soil, watch the plants. Their progress determines how you should cultivate.

While the plants are small, cultivate as deeply as the condition of the soil makes necessary. If your seed bed was not well prepared before planting, deep cultivation when the corn is small is desirable. Get your soil into open condition so that the corn roots can reach out for food.

After the plants become a foot high, shallow cultivation only should be given. The roots have spread out close under the surface of the soil and would be injured by deep cultivation. Never cultivate deeply close to corn plants after they are a foot high. Such cultivation will break feeding roots and cause injury to the plants.

Conserve Labor and Land.

Corn is the main support of the nation. Grown in every state of the Union, it exceeds any other crop in acreage, production, value, and multiplicity of uses.

When land and labor were abundant, production could be increased to meet increasing demands by planting more acres to corn. But the demand for corn is still increasing while available labor is decreasing. The only way to increase production is to make each acre yield more bushels of corn.

The average yield of corn per acre in the United States is about 27 bushels. With good seed, fair soil, and timely, careful cultivation, the yield can be doubled, the specialists say. That may be too much to strive for this year, but proper methods should enable you to obtain, with limited labor, as good yields as you formerly grew—unless, of course, you have always followed the best cultural methods.



The Same Ground Is Covered by This Arrangement and One Man Is Released for Other Work.

give the following general principles as to time and manner of cultivating corn:

Cultivation Has Three Objects.

There are three main purposes of cultivation—to store moisture, to destroy weeds, to warm the soil.

Keep the soil surface loose and open. This will let the rain soak in quickly and reduce waste. In fair weather it will prevent the subsoil from drying out. A properly cultivated surface soil will send moisture, laden with plant food, up through the corn roots and stalks to make ears.

Every weed in a cornfield is an enemy. It drinks up moisture and consumes plant food that should go to make corn kernels instead of weed seed. Destroy weeds when they appear. Attack them, if possible, in fair weather. You will then have the sun as a powerful ally.

## MARKET REPORTS BY WIRE HELP FARMERS

Information Given Out by Government at Small Expense.

List of Telegraph Stations, Together With Other Valuable Information Will Be Sent to Those Desiring the Service.

Anyone desiring to secure market information issued by the bureau of markets, United States department of agriculture, more quickly than is possible through the mails may have all or a part of any report sent by telegraph, charges collect, from the nearest stations maintained by the bureau. A list of these stations, together with a blank for entering the details of the desired telegraphic service will be furnished upon application to the United States department of agriculture.

Some of the phrases used in these reports may require explanation.

"Market excited," represents a condition of uncertainty and a decided bullish tendency on the part of the seller.

"Market stronger," represents a condition of increasing confidence on the part of the seller, with the likelihood that the present demand will consume present supplies.

"Market strong." This represents a condition of firm confidence on the part of the seller. There may be a good demand and supplies may be relatively light, so that the seller is likely to stiffen the price at the first opportunity.

"Market active." This represents a condition of quick sale, good demand, and a generally healthy condition. There may be no decided change in

prices, although it often indicates an upward trend.

"Market firm." This represents a condition of strong confidence in general conditions, resulting often in the strengthening of a price range, but seldom in actual price advances.

"Market steady." This represents a normal movement, with steady, consistent trading showing no decided price changes one way or the other.

"Market unsettled." This represents a condition of uncertainty on the part of sellers and usually indicates a weaker tendency.

"Market dull." Represents light trading and suggests a condition of uncertainty and possible depression.

"Market weak." This may be used in describing a condition of actual price decline, with the possibility of further decline, and represents a decided lack of confidence on the part of the seller.

"Market demoralized." This term is to be used only in very unusual cases and represents a condition when stock can not be moved at any price.

As used in the official market news reports, "market" represents the views of the seller and "demand" those of the buyer.

## GENERAL FARM NOTES

Humus makes soil darker in color.

A farm is known by the fences it keeps.

Saving labor is as important as saving money.

Poultry and eggs make excellent creamery sidelines.

Cowpeas are a warm-weather crop which does splendidly on sandy soils.